

Message Text

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11

ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 L-03 ARA-16 COA-02 EB-11 OIC-04 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

AEC-11 AGR-20 CG-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08

JUSE-00 NSF-04 OMB-01 DRC-01 /196 W

----- 044845

R 212100Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3701

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

CONFIDENTIAL MANAGUA 1057

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, NU

SUBJECT: LAW OF THE SEA NEGOTIATIONS - NICARAGUAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: STATE 36434

1. FOREIGN MINISTER MONTIEL TOLD THE AMBASSADOR MARCH 20 THAT, DURING HIS RECENT OFFICIAL VISIT TO SPAIN, THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT STRONGLY PRESSED HIM TO SUPPORT ITS POSITION ON "INNOCENT PASSAGE" THROUGH STRAITS USED FOR INTERNATIONAL NAVIGATION. MONTIEL SAID HE TOLD THE SPANISH OFFICIALS THAT THE GON WAS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO PRINCIPLE OF "FREE AND UNIMPEDED TRANSIT" THROUGH SUCH STRAITS AND COULD NOT REPEAT NOT SUPPORT INNOCENT PASSAGE POSITION.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER MONTIEL IS PLANNING TO HEAD THE GON DELEGATION TO THE LOS CONFERENCE BEGINNING IN CARACAS JUNE 20. MONTIEL WILL ATTEND THE OPENING SESSION AND STAY FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK. GENERAL ANASTASIO SOMOZA AND FOREIGN MINISTER MONTIEL

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HAVE TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT DR. JOSE MARIA ZELAYA UBEDA,

CURRENTLY SERVING IN THE NICARAGUAN UN MISSION AT NEW YORK, WILL BE GIVEN SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HANDLING LOS MATTERS WITHIN THE GON AND WILL BE A PERMANENT DELEGATE TO THE UN LOS CONFERENCE.

3. THE NEW NICARAGUAN CONSTITUTION WHICH RECEIVED FINAL APPROVAL ON MARCH 14 PROVIDED FOR SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE TERRITORIAL SEA AND CONTINENTAL SHELF BUT DID NOT ESTABLISH ANY LIMITS ON THE EXTENSION OF

THIS DOMAIN. AN AMENDMENT PROVIDING FOR A 200 MILE CONTINENTAL SHELF HAD BEEN INSERTED IN AN EARLIER VERSION BUT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REMOVED. THE FINAL WORDING ON TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY REMAINS AS REPORTED MANAGUA 741. COMMENT: GON IS THEREFORE GOING TO LOS CONFERENCE WITH A BROADLY PHRASED, FLEXIBLE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY THAT WILL PERMIT ITS ACCEPTANCE OF ALMOST ANY LOS TREATIES THAT MIGHT RESULT FROM CONFERENCE.

SHELTON

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